

*Kansas State University*  
*Wind Symphony*

Dr. Alex Wimmer

*Concert Ensemble*

Dr. Zack Deininger, Conductor

*University Band*

Chris Gutierrez, Student Conductor  
Mark Thompson, Student Conductor  
Jaspar Vallad, Student Conductor  
Jackie Cook, Student Conductor  
Olivia Franco, Student Conductor

April 28, 2026

7:30 PM

McCain Auditorium



**Concert Band**

**Dr. Zack Deininger, Conductor**

- Choose Joy* (2022).....Randall Standridge (b. 1976)
- La Tregenda* (1883/2012) .....Giacomo Puccini (1858 - 1924)  
Arr. Brian Beck (b. 1976)
- How Firm Thy Friendship* (1997).....James Swearingen (b. 1947)
- That Which Binds Us* (2015).....Brian Balmages (b. 1975)

**Wind Ensemble  
Dr. Alex Wimmer, Conductor**

- Night on Fire* (2013).....John Mackey (b. 1973)
- Cajun Folk Songs* (2004)..... Frank Ticheli (1958)  
Travis Slaughter, Conductor
- Yosemite Autumn* (2004).....Mark Camphouse (1954)
- Fantasy on a Theme by Sousa* (2005).....Andrew Boysen, Jr. (1968)

**University Band**

- New Era Fanfare* (2013).....Randall Standridge (b. 1976)  
Chris Gutierrez, Conductor
- Mountain Country Dances* (2011).....Johnnie Vinson (b. 1944)  
Mark Thompson, Conductor
- Air for Band* (1956).....Frank Erickson (1923 – 1996)  
Jaspar Vallad, Conductor
- Rough Riders* (1943).....Karl King (1891 – 1971)  
Jackie Cook, Conductor
- Byzantine Dances* (2018).....Carol Brittin Chambers (b. 1970)  
Olivia Franco, Conductor

***Choose Joy (2022)*.....Randall Standridge (b. 1976)**

We never get time back. Ever. In May 2021, I was approached by Joe Glass of Salyards Middle School about a commission. He told me about Nicole Crandall, a recent graduate from the high school that Joe’s program feeds and his former student. Nicole had been battling Level 4 Glioblastoma, a very aggressive form of brain cancer. She was then 20 years old and had been moved into hospice care. To celebrate her, they asked I create a work in her honor.

Illness is the thief of time. In spite of this, Nicole and her family had created a motto they used to navigate the difficult time. “Choose Joy.” I was very moved by this, as I feel too many people waste their time (and their lives) choosing hate, choosing anger, choosing misery. Choose Joy. I like that.

The piece uses elements of Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy* along with a five-note motive representing the five family members of Nicole’s immediate family. A trio is heard near the beginning representing Nicole and her siblings; the parts have been written for the instruments they played in band (flute, clarinet, saxophone). The work alternates between a rhythmic and joyful intensity and a more nostalgic and bittersweet lyrical moment in the middle. There are moments of happiness, humor, worry, pain, and determination. I hope this work serves as a fitting tribute to all of those who choose joy in times of darkness.

***La Tregenda (1883/2012)* .....Giacomo Puccini (1858 - 1924)  
Arr. Brian Beck (b. 1976)**

Originally written as a one-act opera, Puccini was asked by the publisher Ricordi to expand it to a full opera. It premiered in Hamburg with Gustav Mahler on the podium. This intermezzo from the opera, “Le Villi,” depicts the evildoings of the ghost maidens deserted by their lovers. According to the legend of Le Villi, when a woman dies of a broken heart, the fairies disguised as beautiful women cast a spell over the heartbreaker and force him to dance until death.

***How Firm Thy Friendship (1997)*.....James Swearingen (b. 1947)**

*How Firm Thy Friendship* was commissioned by the Shawnee High School Symphonic Band (Lima, Ohio) with cherished remembrances of Todd Rosebrock. The piece is a beautiful chorale prelude with interwoven lyric lines across all parts. As the piece progresses, it reaches a climax when all instruments join forces to portray the theme of the chorale.

***That Which Binds Us (2015)*.....Brian Balmages (b. 1975)**

*That Which Binds Us* is a powerful work that explores joy and sorrow in the form of theme and variations. Its musical content comes from the band directors at Woodland Middle School (Gurnee, Illinois). Over the course of five years, each one of them experienced the loss of a parent. This brought them closer together, and also made them realize how much they rely on the power of music and their students. As many directors know, students have a way of coming through when directors need them most. Whether through a smile, a hug, a joke, or just “normal goofiness,” we all have experienced the positive difference students can make in our lives. The theme and variations became an essential way to unify these experiences of joy, grief, and renewal.

The introduction is based on a three-note descending pattern that continues throughout the work. It appears in numerous variations and eventually develops into the opening three notes of the main theme. Overall, the introduction represents joy – the joy of teaching, making music, and living each day to its fullest. The theme and variations occur as follows:

Theme – The melody is presented in the alto saxophone. It continues to have a lighthearted element and is immediately followed by a second expression of joy.

Variation 1 – The first variation represents denial and isolation, often considered the first stage of grief.

Variation 2 – Anger is often the second stage of grief.

Variation 3 – Many often sight the next two stages as “bargaining” and “depression,” yet it made more sense to combine these two into a single variation that is marked “desolate.”

Variation 4 – Whereas the melody lines have been typically moving down in pitch, this final variation signifies acceptance and moves upward. It too is based on the first three notes of the theme, but the notes are inverted (moving

upward). This variation is also inspired by the final section of Stravinsky's *The Firebird*. The reference is obviously intentional, signifying renewal, acceptance, and the ability to finally look forward with optimism while still carrying wonderful memories in the heart.

***Night on Fire* (2013).....John Mackey (b. 1973)**

*Night on Fire* (2013) is the second of four movements from the suite *The Soul Has Many Motions* (2013). This movement bears a direct relationship to its musical predecessor, *Strange Humors* (2006). Where *Strange Humors* (2006) possesses a singular and often intimate voice, *Night on Fire* (2013) is a full-throated shout of collective expression. Its pace is frantic from the outset, with the unique kind of energy that comes only from groups engaged in choreography that is at once carefully planned and seemingly spontaneous. *Night on Fire* (2013) was commissioned by a consortium of student music organizations at The University of Texas in recognition of Richard Floyd's tireless and passionate advocacy for music education in the State of Texas: Kappa Kappa Psi, Mu Phi Epsilon, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota, Tau Beta Sigma, and The University of Texas Student Music Educators Association. It was premiered in on May 3, 2013.

John Mackey was born on October 1, 1973 in New Philadelphia. Mackey was not involved in any instrumental or choral program while attending growing up but found a fascination with electronic music notation from an Apple IIe computer program called Music Construction Set. He holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with John Corigliano and Donald Erb, respectively. Mackey's works have been performed in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center and has been commissioned by groups such as the Parsons Dance Company, the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, the American Bandmasters Association, and for the New York Philharmonic Principal trombonist Joseph Alessi. Mackey has received numerous grants and has held residencies at numerous universities such as Florida State, Kansas State, Ohio State, Oklahoma, the University of Texas, and the University of Southern California. He currently resides in Cambridge, MA where he composes full-time through his publishing label, OstiMusic (ostimusic.com).

***Cajun Folk Songs* (2004)..... Frank Ticheli (1958)**

Frank Ticheli was born on January 21st, 1958, in Monroe, Louisiana. Through his early childhood, Frank Ticheli grew up near New Orleans, Louisiana, in a town called La Place, where he had early musical influences of New Orleans jazz and Cajun music. After graduating from Lloyd V. Berkner High School, Ticheli attended Southern Methodist University and earned a Bachelor of Music in Composition. At Southern Methodist University, Ticheli studied under Donald Erb and Jack Waldenmaier. After earning his bachelor's degree, Ticheli earned his Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Michigan. At Michigan, Ticheli studied under William Bolcom, William Albright, and Leslie Bassett. After graduating from the University of Michigan, Ticheli served as an assistant professor of music at Trinity University and on the board of the Texas Composers Forum. Later, throughout the 1990s, Ticheli was a composer-in-residence with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra. Soon after, Ticheli became a professor at the University of Southern California, where he retired in 2023. Today, Ticheli still composes, guest conducts across the country, and is an educator.

In 1934, John Lomax received funding from the Library of Congress to be a part of a national folk song survey. As a part of this survey, Lomax made field recordings of Cajun and Creole music. Later, after the survey, Lomax made a folksong collection titled "Our Singing Country" and transcribed some of the pieces he heard while making the survey for a chapter titled "French Songs and Ballads from Southwestern Louisiana." These recordings were made at a time when Cajun culture and Cajun music were becoming a lost art due to contemporary music of the time.

Frank Ticheli had a desire to pay tribute to Cajun music and the Cajun culture with hopes that their contributions will not be forgotten. Ticheli discovered the Lomax recordings and chose *La Belle et la Capitaine* and *Belle* because of the way they contrasted each other. *La Belle et la Capitaine* is slower and in a Dorian mode, while *Belle* is more contemporary with blues-like imitations, and the use of the pentatonic scale. The work is dedicated to the Murchison Middle School Band, Austin, Texas, Cheryl Floyd, director, who commissioned the work and gave its premiere on May 22, 1990.

*La Belle et La Capitaine* is about a young woman who fakes her own death to avoid being kidnapped and seduced by a captain. Three days into her father's mourning of her death, she returns home and explains to her father why she faked her death. This traditional Cajun folk song also goes by *Blanche comme la neige*, translated to White as Snow, referencing the young woman's purity. It is estimated that the origin of this folk song comes from 18th century Normandy, this is during the time where French-Cajuns were immigrating to Canada, and this song was a way to bring their culture with them.

*Belle* is about a man that is caught with a choice between a new and old love. The man leaves for Texas to his new love, but he gets word that his old love is dying. The man returns from Texas and finds his old love unconscious. To save her, he attempts to sell his horse but fails and returns to Texas.

***Yosemite Autumn (2004)*.....Mark Camphouse (1954)**

*Yosemite Autumn (2004)* is dedicated to the memory of my mother-in-law, Daphna Lodean Wilson (1930-2003), whose spirit will always seem "to glow with life." The majestic splendor of California's Yosemite National Park inspired this work. While on vacation in the autumn of 2003, Mark Camphouse and his family stopped in Yosemite National Park. He states, "How could any human not be profoundly moved by such stunning beauty? How could any American not take immense pride in our nation being so richly blessed with such an abundance of natural beauty...how could any composer not be inspired and hopelessly tempted to 'get the creative juices flowing' in trying to capture the rich and majestic landscape that is in Yosemite? For the remaining portion of this vacation I was doomed. I was there physically with my family but the creative part of me was thinking about ways I might try to capture musically the awe-inspiring sights and sounds of Yosemite. The great American naturalist, conservationist, and writer John Muir certainly said it best: *No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its walls seems to glow with life.*"

Mark Camphouse was born in Oak Park, Illinois. He began composing at a young age, premiering *First Symphony* (1971) at age 17. Camphouse received undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from Northwestern University where he studied composition with Alan Stout, conducting with John P. Paynter, and trumpet with Vincent Cichowicz. Camphouse began composing at an early age, with the Colorado Philharmonic premiering his First Symphony when he was 17. His music for wind band have received widespread critical acclaim and are performed frequently in the US and around the world. Principal commissions include those by the William D. Revelli Foundation, The US Army Band, The US Marine Band, Northshore Concert Band, and some of America's finest high school, college-university, and community bands. Camphouse is an indemand conductor, clinician, and educator in the United States and around the world. He was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association in 1999 and has served as founding coordinator of the National Band Association Young Composer Mentor Project since 2000. In 2006, Camphouse joined the faculty of George Mason University where he serves as conductor of the wind symphony and teaches courses in composition and conducting. In 2011, Camphouse received the Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Award in recognition of, and appreciation for valuable contributions to the growth and development of the modern college/university band in the field of composition.

***Fantasy on a Theme by Sousa (2005)*.....Andrew Boysen, Jr. (1968)**

*Fantasy on a Theme of Sousa (2005)* was commissioned by the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Jefferson High School Band Parents Association in honor of the career of former Director of Bands Earle Dickinson. It was premiered at Jefferson High School on March 17, 2003, by the Jefferson Wind Symphony, Thad Driskell, conductor.

As one of hundreds of alumni of the Jefferson Band program under Earle Dickinson, I was enormously honored to be given the opportunity to compose a work in his honor. The course of my life was affected greatly by this wonderful person and, although he would be hesitant to admit it, the same is true of many who passed through the "Band of Blue". I am very proud of my alma mater and the degree to which the band has developed since my time in the 1980s.

How then to write a piece that would appropriately pay tribute to Mr. D? I asked Thad Driskell and Andy Houk (present directors), and even Mr. D himself, for their opinions. I wanted to write something that Mr. D would like, and so I asked him what pieces he enjoyed the most throughout his career. One of the things he mentioned was his recent interest in the music of John Philip Sousa. This prompted me to think of my favorite Sousa march, Fairest of the Fair, written in 1908. I decided that a composition based on that theme might be able to incorporate many of the things Mr. D loves most.

The resultant piece includes additional tributes to Mr. D: much of the material presented by Mr. D's instrument, the trombone; there are quotations from the beginning of Jefferson High School's Alma Mater; and there are also two instances where repeated notes ring in the chimes twenty-two times, representing the twenty-two years in which Mr. D served as director of bands.

It is my sincere hope that this piece in some way can represent the emotions of gratitude felt by so many of us toward Mr. D. Above all else, I hope he likes it!

Andrew Boysen, Jr. (b. 29 September 1968, Iowa City, Iowa) is an American composer, arranger, conductor and educator.

Boysen earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as conductor of the Eastman Wind Orchestra and assistant conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. He received his Master

of Music degree in wind conducting from Northwestern University in 1993 and his Bachelor of Music degree in music education and music composition from the University of Iowa in 1991.

Boysen is presently a full professor in the music department at the University of New Hampshire, where he conducts the wind symphony and teaches conducting, composition and orchestration. Previously, Boysen served as an assistant professor and acting associate director of bands at Indiana State University, where he directed the Marching Sycamores, conducted the symphonic band and taught in the music education department. Prior to that appointment, he was the director of bands at Cary-Grove (Ill.) High School and was the music director and conductor of the Deerfield Community Concert Band. He remains active as a guest conductor and clinician, appearing with high school, university and festival ensembles across the United States and Great Britain.

## **University Band Program Notes**

*New Era Fanfare* (2013).....**Randall Standridge (b. 1976)**

Randall Standridge's *New Era Fanfare* is a bold, energetic concert opener. This fanfare has a distinct edgy sound that is complimented by the use of a synthesizer. The use of electronic instruments against a traditional concert ensemble creates a new and interesting texture. Standridge revolutionizes a modern sound that is unique to any of his other works.

***Mountain Country Dances (2011)*.....**Johnnie Vinson (b. 1944)****

*Mountain Country Dances* is a suite of three pieces for young band in the American folk tradition written by Johnnie Vinson. Vinson is the former Director of Bands and Professor of Music Emeritus at Auburn University. After 36 years of teaching, Vinson retired and is now working for Hal Leonard Corporations, where he has composed and arranged over 550 different works for band. *Mountain Country Dances* is not based on any pre-existing folk songs. All of the tunes were newly written to reflect Dr. Vinson’s impression of this type of music.

1. Tar Heel Two-Step – Written in a moderate tempo in 4/4 time. The form is A-B-A with the middle section featuring the tenor voices of the band.
2. Woodland Waltz – Three contrasting presentations of a 16-measure theme in 3/4 time and contrasting the keys of F and Ab Major.
3. Blue Ridge Reel – A lively and energetic fiddle tune in 4/4 time reminiscent of the music heard at old-time bard dances.

*Mountain Country Dances* was commissioned by the band directors of the North Carolina Bandmasters Association, Northwest District, and is dedicated to the 2010-2011 All District Middle School Symphonic Band. It was composed during November and December, 2010, and premiered on February 12, 2011 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

***Air for Band (1956)*.....**Frank Erickson (1923 – 1996)****

Several generations of band members have developed their ability to play a sustained line, to listen for the moving part, and to improve their intonation while playing this work since it was first published in 1956. While not difficult to play technically, *Air for Band* takes careful rehearsing to get the results the piece deserves. The composition begins softly and in a minor key, and by gradually adding instruments and increasing the dynamics and range, the climactic section is reached approximately halfway through. Erickson then uses the opening melody to create interesting rhythms and dialogues between sections on the way to a modulation to a major key and another crescendo leading to a *maestoso* ending.

***Rough Riders (1943)*.....**Karl King (1891 – 1971)****

Karl L. King was born in Paintersville, Oklahoma on February 21, 1891 and died on March 31, 1971 in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was a member of the Thayer Military Band of Canton in 1909 in Columbus, Ohio along with Danville, Illinois. During his time in these bands is where his love for composing took off. He began to be a circus musician while writing compositions. King wrote and published “Rough Riders” in 1943 in tribute to President Theodore Roosevelt along with volunteer cavalymen called Rough Riders. James Swearingen arranged “Rough Riders” in 1996 for concert band. James Swearingen is very well known for being an educator, performer, and composer/arranger.

***Byzantine Dances (2018)*.....**Carol Brittin Chambers (b. 1970)****

Carol Brittin Chambers’ *Byzantine Dances* (2018) is a high energy composition that explores two different types of traditional Turkish dances. The opening is fast and energetic, much like a traditional Roma dance. The second dance embedded in the middle movement is the *Zeybek*, often a symbol of courage and heroism, commonly shown through the dancer stretching their arms out like a hawk. Chambers closes the piece by returning to the bright original theme of the Roma dance, bringing the ensemble back to a vibrant and chaotic dance party.

*Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name*

**FLUTE**

Caiden Crosthwaite  
Madison Johnson  
Elizabeth Larson\*  
Mika Neal  
Lauren Snead

**CLARINET**

Chaoying Cai  
Jackie Cook  
Abby Fisher  
Katie Krumins  
Payten Mayfield\*  
Jon Rajewski  
Yalena Sanchez  
Katelyn Willemsen  
Havely Wolff

**BASS CLARINET**

Madelynn Blythe  
Bre Ledbetter\*  
Brady Smotrilla

**OBOE**

Nora Ide  
Adelle Jensen\*

**BASSOON**

Samantha Barnes  
Kate Marten\*

**ALTO SAX**

Chase Burman  
Ben Dresbach  
Dakota Forrester

**TENOR SAX**

Isaac Chase

**BARITONE SAX**

Chris Gutierrez\*

**TRUMPET**

Emmalee Harris  
Tristan Lewis  
Carter McCune  
Cody Monhollon  
Nathan Proctor  
Cameron Sadler  
Ava Sedlacek  
Jae Seefeldt\*  
Mark Thompson

**FRENCH HORN**

Piper Clark  
Elijah Cunningham\*  
Devlyn Jochum  
Tucker Settles

**TROMBONES**

Zach Elliott (Bass)\*  
Emma Graf  
Joey Nguyen  
Vaughan Popp

**EUPHONIUM**

Misha Epstein\*  
Aria Moneypenny

**TUBA**

Larry Dougan  
Olivia Franco\*  
Andru Gnuthake  
Keeden Sisco-Pianalto

**PERCUSSION**

Quinn Bohling  
Brett Carter  
Dayton Hawkins  
Isaac Holuska  
Nathan Koupal  
Eli Paddock  
Cole Parsons  
Jasper Vallad\*  
Noah Vogel

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY – CONCERT BAND**  
**SPRING 2026**

*Listed Alphabetically*

**FLUTE**

Addy Barnard  
Madisen Brecheisen  
\*Melissa Fierro  
Kaylee Hembree  
Gabriella Janss (Picc)  
Tony Le  
Salem Ponnuru  
Allison Reid  
Armista Yaeger

**OBOE**

\*Sylvia Cunningham  
Annika Lindt

**CLARINET**

Rolland Brengle  
Owen Edmondson  
\*Addison Gardner  
Rachel Gillam  
Yalena Sanchez

**BASS CLARINET**

\*Zachery Haake-Lopez

**ALTO SAX**

Lydia Howell  
Carter Purcell  
\*Wyatt Small

**TENOR SAX**

Riddick Jeffries

**TRUMPET**

Andrew Dearing  
Addison Folse  
Jakeb Kobs  
\*Evelyn Peat  
Isabella Powell-Pandiri  
Kyndall Sandbo  
Landon Snyder

**HORN**

\*Kylee Gardner  
Daisy Hoff  
Jacob Huyett  
Bryson Post

**TROMBONE**

Jes Boyle  
Darika Bunch  
\*Emma Graf  
Jess Hargett  
Maddy Resser

**EUPHONIUM**

\*Alexis Hoffman  
\*Miguel Diaz

**TUBA**

Jacob Cox  
Dom Taormina-Meyer  
\*Isaiah Zinkan

**PERCUSSION**

\*Abby Gantz  
Alex Herron  
Reece Rossillon  
Ava Seemann  
Jonas Smith  
Ben Wills  
Wanlin Wu

**\*Principal/Section Leader**

# Kansas State University Band

## Spring 2026

### FLUTE

Mariah Hague  
Cameron Sadler  
Brett Wyckoff#  
Ryan Woodruff  
Braxton Robertson  
Aspen Tallent  
Chloe Crooks#  
Olivia Franco#

### OBOE

Via Miller  
Sienna DelBorrell

### BASSOON

Onijini Karimu

### CLARINET

Alex Cavanaugh  
Caiden Crosthwaite  
Gabriella Janss  
Elijah Cunningham  
Ellyn Campbell  
Dayton Hawkins  
Jessie Whelan#  
Mika Neal

### BASS CLARINET

Ryan Katzer  
Miguel Diaz

### ALTO SAX

Aria Moneypenny  
Jaylee Giles  
Camden Findlay  
Copper Youngers  
Brook Litney  
Asmodeus Hull

### TENOR SAX

Madison Johnson  
Jonas Smith

### BARITONE SAX

Lindsey Crowell

### TRUMPET

Ty Miller  
Sydney Lamb  
Arthur Adams  
Jake York  
Addelyn Moore  
Chris Gutierrez#  
Brady Smotrilla  
Allison Reid#  
Carter Purcell  
Mack Allen

### HORN

Carter McCune  
Preston Schuetz  
Larry Dougan  
Jes Boyle  
Marshall Jones

### TROMBONE

Steven Reimer  
Brendan Scaglione  
Cody Monhollon  
Nathaniel Phillis  
Jackie Cook#  
Kaylee Hembree  
Tristan Lewis

### EUPHONIUM

Sophia Glanville

### TUBA

Corbin Montenegro  
Owen Genereux  
Jasper Vallad#  
Noah Vogel

### PERCUSSION

Jacob Daley  
Karson Griffin#  
Mark Thompson#  
Yalena Sanchez  
Jae Seefeldt

## **Wind Symphony Conductor**

**DR. ALEX WIMMER** is currently serving as the Associate Director of Bands at Kansas State University. His duties include directing the Wind Symphony, Cat Band (basketball pep band), Volleyball Band, Pub Crawl Band, Assistant Marching Band Director for the Pride of Wildcat Land (KSUMB), arranger and drill designer for the KSUMB, and instructor of undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, arranging, and marching band techniques. He also serves as the faculty sponsor for Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. During the summer he coordinates the K-State Summer Music Camp and K-State Leadership and Auxiliary Camp, and serves as one of the Assistant Directors of the Manhattan Municipal Band. Prior to his appointment at Kansas State University, Dr. Wimmer was a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Kansas State University Bands. He assisted with all concert

and athletic ensembles, undergraduate conducting courses, and Percussion Ensembles. His research interests include undergraduates conducting with expressivity and qualitative research.

Originally from Gretna, Nebraska, Dr. Wimmer received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, his Master of Music degree in Education with an emphasis in Wind Conducting from Kansas State University, and his Doctorate in Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University. Dr. Wimmer was the Director of Bands at Gretna High School and the Assistant Director of Bands at Gretna Middle School. He was a recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award in 2011 and served on the Nebraska Music Educators Association Leadership Academy from 2011-2012.

Dr. Wimmer is in demand as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator as well as a percussion specialist. His professional affiliations include the Kansas Music Educators Association, the Kansas Bandmasters Association, the National Association for Music Education, the College Band Directors National Association, the Percussive Arts Society, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Kappa Lambda. He is currently the president of the Kansas Bandmasters Association, as well a co-chair of the New Band Director Bootcamp during the Kansas Bandmasters Association's summer convention.

## **Concert Band Conductor**

**DR. ZACK DEININGER** received a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Wind Conducting from the University of South Carolina where he served as a graduate assistant with the Carolina Bands. At the University of South Carolina, he assisted with all aspects of the concert and athletic bands, including arranging and writing drill for the University of South Carolina Marching Band, and assisted with undergraduate conducting courses. Prior to receiving his doctorate, Dr. Deininger served as the Assistant Director of Bands at Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada (a suburb of Las Vegas). In this position, he co-directed the 175-member Green Valley Marching and Athletic Bands, directed the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band III, served as assistant conductor of the Symphonic Winds, and was instructor of the Advanced Placement Music Theory course and

Chamber Class. In addition to his duties at Green Valley High School, he also served on the Nevada All State Band Committee and as Chairperson of the Southern Nevada Band Association's High School Honor Jazz Bands.

Receiving a Master's Degree in Music Education from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, Dr. Deininger assisted with all aspects of the Auburn Band Program serving as conductor of the Auburn University Campus Band, assistant conductor of the Auburn University Symphonic Winds, instructor of the undergraduate advanced conducting course, and assistant to all aspects of the Athletic Band Program. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio where he studied horn under Grammy award winner Dr. Andrew Pelletier and served as Drum Major for the Falcon Marching Band for three years under Dr. Carol Hayward.

Dr. Deininger is a staff member of various summer camps throughout the country where he instructs drum majors and student leaders in leadership and conducting. He also serves as a music and marching staff member for the Macy's Great American Marching Band held over Thanksgiving each year in New York City. Dr. Deininger is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, the National Association for Music Education, the Kansas Music Educators Association, the Kansas Bandmasters Association, and the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda. He is an honorary member of Tau Beta and Kappa Kappa Psi Sigma.

## **University Band Conductors**

**JACKIE COOK** is a junior studying music education from Marysville, Kansas. At Kansas State University she is involved in Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Clarinet Choir. She studies clarinet with Dr. Guffey and this is her third year in University Band.

**OLIVIA FRANCO** is a fourth-year student at Kansas State University from Lenexa, Kansas, majoring in Music Education. She serves as principal Tuba in the Wind Symphony and as the Assistant Section Leader for the Kansas State University Marching Band. She is also a member of Kappa Kappa Psi and serves as the Music Chair. After graduating in Spring 2027, Olivia plans to teach band in the public school system.

**CHRIS GUTIERREZ** is a junior at Kansas State University, studying Music Education and Historical Performance Practice. Chris plays saxophone in the Wind Symphony and trumpet in University Band. They are involved in many ensembles at K-State, including the Marching Band, Saxophone Ensemble, Recorder Rebels, Collegium Musicum. And the Video Game Movie Music Ensemble, of which they are a conductor. Chris is also involved in Tau Beta Sigma, where they currently serve as the Midwest District Secretary Treasurer, and Sigma Alpha Iota, where they serve as the Vice President of Ritual.

**MARK THOMPSON** Mark Thompson is a junior in music education from Winfield, Kansas, and will graduate in Spring 2027. As a trumpet player, he has been a participant of the Trumpet Studio, Concert Band, Wind Symphony, Concert Jazz Ensemble, Pub Crawl, and the Kansas State University Marching Band. Throughout his time at Kansas State, Mark has held many leadership positions throughout various organizations. He was the Music Instructor for the KSUMB Trumpet Section, the Ritual and Music Chair for Tau Beta Sigma, and the Alumni Relations Officer for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. After graduation, Mark hopes to begin a career as a high school band director and intends to pursue a Masters in Wind Band Conducting.

**JASPAR VALLAD** is in his third year of study toward a Bachelors degree in Music Education. A native of Olathe, Kansas, he graduated High School from the American School of The Hague in Wassenaar, The Netherlands. At Kansas State University, he has performed with the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Percussion Ensemble, Latin Jazz Ensemble, Concert Jazz Ensemble, the “Swing Machine” Jazz Combo, and the “Pride of Wildcat Land” Marching Band Drumline. Jasper is a member of the The National Association for Music Education and the Percussive Arts Society, and serves as the media manager for the Percussive Arts Society at Kansas State.

Jasper serves as a private instructor of drum set at the Flint Hills Academy of Music in Wamego, Kansas. In 2025, he performed as the drum set player with River City Rhythm Drum and Bugle Corps, and in the summer of 2026, he will perform with the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps. In addition to his musical pursuits, he enjoys cycling, photography, and cooking.

## **GUEST CONDUCTOR**

**TRAVIS SLAUGHTER** is a conductor, tuba player, and music educator from Rector, Arkansas. Travis graduated with his bachelor's degree in Instrumental Music Education with a minor in Jazz Studies from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Travis is currently a graduate assistant at Kansas State University, pursuing a Master of Music with an Emphasis in Wind Band.

During his time at Arkansas State University, he served as the principal tuba player in the wind ensemble. For *The Sound of the Natural State* he served as section leader for the sousaphone section, as well as drum major. Travis also co-founded and directed the Arkansas State University Video Game Orchestra. Beyond his work in

ensembles, Travis is an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, and an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Travis has worked with some of the top band programs in Northeast Arkansas, as well as smaller band programs in Northeast Arkansas and Southwest Missouri. Travis's main goals as a music educator are to give students opportunities, to build community inside the program, and to connect with the local community in more than just music